

70. FREGATA MINOR (Gmel.); Bourns & Worcester, *t. c.* p. 32.

The Lesser Frigate-bird obtained at Cape Engaño completes the list.

X.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. XXIX. & XXX. .

No. XXIX. (Oct. 31st, 1895.)

THE twenty-eighth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 23rd of October, 1895.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present:—G. BARRETT-HAMILTON, E. BIDWELL, PHILIP CROWLEY, W. E. DE WINTON, A. H. EVANS, Major A. P. LOYD, E. NEALE, R. NESHAM, W. R. OGILVIE GRANT, C. E. PEARSON, H. J. PEARSON, FRANK PENROSE, T. DIGBY PIGOTT, C.B., HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), HENRY SEEBOHM, R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), Capt. G. E. SHELLEY, W. B. TEGETMEIER, H. M. WALLIS, C. A. WRIGHT.

Visitors: Dr. F. D. DREWITT, C. E. FAGAN, Sir WILLIAM FLOWER, K.C.B., F.R.S., Sir HENRY HOWORTH, K.C.I.E., F.R.S.

The CHAIRMAN read the following Address to the Club:—

ON taking the Chair at the first meeting of the Fourth Session of the B. O. C., I propose to address to you a few remarks on recent events in Ornithology. Before commencing these, however, I must express the regret which all the Members of the Club will feel at the loss we have lately suffered by the death of our friend and colleague, Henry Thornton Wharton, who was well known to us as an expert in British Ornithology, and as the author of a useful list of British Birds, published in 1877. He was also the active and efficient Secretary of the Committee for the preparation of the

B. O. U. List of British Birds, published in 1883, and the General Editor of that work. In the composition of the B. O. U. List, Wharton's classical knowledge was of very great assistance to the Committee, and it was to his learning that we are indebted for the explanations of the generic and specific terms, which form such useful features in that work. I must also not forget that we have lately lost from our ranks an energetic Indian ornithologist, Lieut. Henry E. Barnes, F.Z.S. I may likewise allude to the untimely death, from hematuric fever, of Ernst Baumann, as recently announced at Berlin. Baumann was a young and energetic collector, who had worked hard at the birds of the German Colony of Togoland, on the West Coast of Africa, and had added upwards of 100 species to its avifauna.

I will now proceed to more cheerful topics.

Since we commenced our last Session great progress has been made with the British Museum Catalogue of Birds, and we may well expect that the year 1896 will witness its final completion. Count Salvadori's volume on the Anseres, Tinami, and other lower Orders is complete and ready for publication. The joint-volume of Mr. Saunders (on the Laridæ) and Mr. Salvin (on the Tubinares) is nearly ready, I am informed; and that of Dr. Bowdler Sharpe on the Waders is said to be in a very forward state. There remains, therefore, only Dr. Sharpe's Catalogue of the Divers, Pelicans, Cormorants, and Herons, on which, I believe our Editor is busily employed at the present time. I am much pleased also to learn that steps have been taken towards the compilation of an additional volume (as suggested in my last Address), in which the names of all species described since the commencement of the Catalogue in 1874, and not already recorded in the different volumes, will be enrolled. When this additional volume and the General Index of the whole series shall have been issued, the result will be a work of surpassing value to all workers on the Class of Birds.

As regards other works on systematic Ornithology in progress, I will not say much more on the present occasion. I may, however, mention that Captain Shelley is now engaged in printing a complete Catalogue of African Birds, which he has

had for some years in preparation. Captain Shelley's intimate acquaintance with this subject will, no doubt, render it a most useful and valuable work. As soon as it is finished, we must call upon him to prepare a new edition of the 'Birds of Egypt.' When visiting that country last winter, I received many complaints as to this useful volume being out of print. I may also express a hope, which I am sure will be joined in by all ornithologists, that Capt. Bendire's 'Life-Histories of North-American Birds,' of which the first part was published in 1892, will be continued and completed. Such a work is just what we require for a better understanding of the Nearctic Ornis.

As regards future explorations, on which I sometimes obtrude my advice, it is still abundantly manifest that every piece of new land into which the traveller thrusts his way will continue to supply novelties in Ornithology, as in other branches of Natural History, and that the age of discovery is by no means yet past. Dr. Donaldson Smith's researches in Galla-land, Mr. Whitehead's expedition to the Philippines, and Mr. Baron's excursions in the Andes of Northern Peru, alike prove that such is not the case. From New Guinea, again, and the adjacent islands, as the Members of this Club well know, we still continue to receive new and most strange forms of Paradise-birds. One of the most remarkable of these extraordinary birds (*Pteridophora alberti*) has only become known to us during the last Session of the Club. As the mountains of New Guinea become invaded by the scientific explorer, more, no doubt, remain to follow. But to attain the recesses of Galla-land, the Philippines, or Peru, are tasks not to be undertaken lightly. For shorter excursions which might be accomplished in a winter's travel, besides the expedition up the Euphrates, which I suggested in last year's Address, I will venture to put forward the claims of Tripoli and Arabia Felix to ornithological investigation. Tripoli, lying between Tunis and Egypt, presents features of considerable interest, and though its birds would be few, yet we should like to know what *are* to be found there. Tripoli is commonly supposed to be inaccessible, owing to the fanaticism

of its inhabitants; but it is evident from Mr. Cowper's recent archaeological expedition into that country (of which an account was given at the recent Meeting of the British Association) that these supposed difficulties are by no means unsurmountable. Where the archæologist can go the naturalist can surely follow. The Editors of 'The Ibis' have already sung the praises of Arabia Felix in their last number (see 'Ibis,' 1895, p. 510). It is a pity that Mr. Bent did not take a collector with him to Dhofar. As he neglected this good opportunity, some ornithologist must follow in his footsteps, and tell us what the birds of Dhofar really are.

In concluding my remarks I will again urge upon you the great want of a modern Handbook on the Anatomy of Birds. Notwithstanding the labours of Garrod, Forbes, and Gadow in this country, and Fürbringer on the continent, we have no convenient systematic treatise on this important subject in a handy form. There is an enormous quantity of knowledge available, but it requires to be concentrated into a tangible shape. I may say, however, that I have some hopes that Mr. Beddard and Mr. Chalmers Mitchell, who is working with Mr. Beddard in the Zoological Society's Prosectorium, will undertake this formidable task, and that before long we may be gratified by having ready for use a Handbook on the Anatomy of Birds, properly illustrated and written in the tongue most familiar to us.

MR. H. J. PEARSON gave an interesting account of his expedition to Kolguev and Novaya Zemlya, in the yacht 'Saxon,' during the summer of 1895, and exhibited a series of the eggs of the Grey Plover (*Squatarola helvetica*) and the Little Stint (*Tringa minuta*) from Kolguev. At his request, the further account of the expedition relating to Novaya Zemlya was postponed till the next Meeting.

MR. C. E. PEARSON exhibited one of the nests of the Little Stint, which he presented to the National Collection.

Two nestlings of Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus bewicki*), obtained by Colonel Feilden, a member of the expedition, were also exhibited. These also were presented to the British Museum.

Mr. W. R. OGILVIE GRANT exhibited specimens of some new species of birds sent by Mr. John Whitehead from the Philippines, and described them as follows:—

SIPHIA ENGANENSIS, sp. n.

♂ similis *S. pallidipedi*, sed hypochondriis cervinis distinguenda. ♀ a ♀ *S. pallidipedis*, loris ferrugineis, et fasciâ superciliari angustâ cæruleâ trans frontem ductâ distinguenda. Long. tot. 6·0 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 3·1, caudæ 2·5, tarsi 0·88.

Hab. Cape Engaño, Luzon.

HYPSSIPETES FUGENSIS, sp. n.

♂ ♀. Similis *H. pryeri*, sed pileo colloque brunneis, nec cinereis, et dorso concoloribus, abdomine haud albo notato distinguendus. Long. tot. 10·5 poll., culm. 1·15, alæ 4·85, caudæ 4·65, tarsi 0·85.

Hab. Fuga Island, Babuyan Group.

ZOSTERORNIS DENNISTOUNI, sp. n.

Z. sordide viridescens, notæo angustè albido striolato: subtùs pallide flavus, gulâ lætiore: fronte et sincipite aureis distinguendus. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 2·7, caudæ 2·2, tarsi 0·75.

Hab. Cape Engaño, Luzon.

ORTHOTOMUS CHLORONOTUS, sp. n.

Similis *O. derbiano*, sed notæo toto et subcaudalibus olivascanti-viridibus distinguendus. Long. tot. 4·8 poll., alæ 2·2, caudæ 1·8, tarsi 0·8.

Hab. Cape Engaño, N.E. Luzon.

Mr. GRANT also described a new *Proparus* from Manipur and the Naga Hills, which he proposed to call

PROPARUS AUSTENI, sp. n.

P. similis *P. vinipectori*, sed pileo rufescentiore, et albedine gutturis restrictâ: præpectore vinaceo nec albo distinguendus. Long. tot. 4·5 poll., culm. 0·43, alæ 2·3, caudæ 2·0, tarsi 0·9.

Captain SHELLEY described three new species of African Barbets, as follows:—

STACTOLÆMA WOODWARDI, sp. n.

Simile *S. olivaceo*, Shelley, sed paullo major, et plagâ magnâ sulphureâ auriculari usque ad nucham productâ distinguendum. Long. tot. 6·5 poll., culm. 0·75, alæ 3·5, caudæ 2·3, tarsi 0·95.

Hab. Zulu Land.

TRICHOLÆMA ANSORGII.

Simile *T. hirsuto*, sed hypochondriis latius nigro maculatis, minime albo fasciatis distinguendum. Long. tot. 6·3 poll., alæ 3·5.

Hab. Uganda.

TRICHOLÆMA GABONENSE, sp. n.

Simile *T. hirsuto*, sed brunnescentius, et facie laterali haud albo notatâ distinguendum. Long. tot. 7·3 poll., culm. 0·95, alæ 3·6, caudæ 2·1, tarsi 0·9.

Hab. Gaboon to Cameroons.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE stated that a recent examination of the type of *Bradyornis woodwardi* from Natal had convinced him that it was only an example of *Sylvia simplex* (= *S. hortensis*, auctt.) in greenish plumage. The specimen in question had a somewhat abnormally shaped bill, which made it look like a *Bradyornis*, and, moreover, the plumage did not resemble that of any specimen of *S. simplex* with which it had been compared. The greenish plumage must be that of the freshly moulted bird in its winter-quarters, and therefore in a stage not seen in European examples.

Mr. HENRY SEEBOHM described a new species of Eagle-Owl from Sidemi, in the Ussuri country, E. Siberia. The type specimen had been obtained by Kalinowski, and presented by the Warsaw Museum to the British Museum, where it had hitherto been identified with *Bubo blakistoni*. Mr. Seebohm proposed to call it

BUBO DOERRIESI, sp. n.

Similis *B. blakistoni*, sed plaga nuchali albâ magnâ facile distinguendus. Long. tot. 25 poll., alæ 20·5, tarsi 3·2.

A second specimen had been procured by Mr. Doerries

near Vladivostock, and five specimens were now known, all of them agreeing in the possession of a white nape-spot. It would seem also that *B. doerriesi* had a nearly white tail when fully adult.

No. XXX. (Nov. 20th, 1895.)

THE twenty-ninth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 20th of November, 1895.

Chairman : P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present :—E. BIDWELL, Col. C. T. BINGHAM, PHILIP CROWLEY, E. A. S. ELLIOT, E. W. DE WINTON, Col. H. W. FEILDEN, JOHN GERRARD, J. E. HARTING, W. H. HUDSON, Major A. P. LOYD, J. G. MILLAIS, Dr. ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.R.S., R. NESHAM, W. R. OGILVIE GRANT, H. J. PEARSON, FRANK PENROSE, EVELYN RAWSON, HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), E. CAVENDISH TAYLOR, Major HORACE TERRY, A. TREVOR-BATTYE, W. B. TEGETMEIER, C. A. WRIGHT, J. YOUNG.

Visitors : Dr. F. D. DREWITT, H. TABOR BROOKS, Admiral A. H. MARKHAM, Sir HERBERT MAXWELL, Bart., M.P., H. MUNT.

Mr. SCLATER called attention to the fine specimen of the Spotted Redshank (*Totanus fuscus*) now living in the Fish House in the Zoological Society's Gardens, and obtained on October 17th, along with other waders, from Spalding in Lincolnshire. It was the first specimen, so far as was known, that had been received by the Zoological Society, and Mr. Bartlett, in all his long experience, had never seen a living specimen in captivity before.

Mr. SCLATER also exhibited a portrait (lithograph) of Prof. Giglioli, presented by the latter to the British Ornithologists' Union.

Mr. SCLATER stated that in view of the large amount of

work he had done in American Ornithology, the Authorities of the Smithsonian Institution had kindly agreed to publish, in the Bulletin of the U.S. National Museum, a complete Bibliography of his published writings from 1844 to 1894 inclusive. The MS. of this volume, which was already in type, had been prepared under his superintendence by Mr. G. A. Doubleday. The list contained the titles of 1239 publications, many of which, however, were short notes and notices.

Mr. HOWARD SAUNDERS gave a brief sketch of the proceedings at the International Congress recently held at Paris to consider the legislation necessary for the protection of birds useful to agriculture, to which he had been accredited as the delegate of the British Government, together with Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., M.P. Sir Herbert, who was present as a guest, gave an interesting account of the diplomatic work of the Congress.

Professor MENZBIER, of Moscow, forwarded, on behalf of Mr. Sushkin, the diagnosis of a new species of Goose, which Mr. Sushkin proposed to call

ANSER NEGLECTUS, n. sp.

A. ab A. brachyrhyncho staturâ majore, rostro longiore et graciliore, secundariorum tectricibus atro-fuscis, tectricibus carpalibus discoloribus: ab *A. segetum* pedibus zonaque rostri incarnatis distinguendus.

The full description of this species will appear in 'The Ibis.'

Dr. J. VON MADARÁSZ, of the Hungarian National Museum, sent for exhibition some photographs of a nest of the Chimney-Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) built in a curious position among the hanging branches of a vine.

Dr. W. T. BLANFORD, F.R.S., communicated a note on the two Sarus Cranes of the Indian Region. He agreed with Dr. Bowdler Sharpe that there were two distinct forms: one found in the Indian Peninsula and the other in the Burmese Provinces. The latter had been recognized by

Dr. Sharpe as the true *Grus antigone* of Linnæus, but, in Dr. Blanford's opinion, this name had been founded on Edwards's description of the Greater Indian Crane (Nat. Hist. Birds, i. p. 45, pl. 45), which was said to have "the neck very long, covered in the upper parts with white feathers, which gradually become ash-coloured towards its bottom." This, Dr. Blanford contended, could only apply to the Indian bird, and he therefore proposed the name of *Grus (Antigone) sharpii* for the dark-coloured Burmese form, which had no white on the neck. The characters of the two species had been clearly given by Dr. Sharpe in the twenty-third volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds,' pp. 263, 264.

Mr. H. J. PEARSON continued his narrative of his recent expedition to Kolguev and Novaya Zemlya, and exhibited specimens of the downy nestlings of Bewick's Swan, the Bean Goose, Common Eider, Grey Plover, Turnstone, Dunlin, and Temminck's Stint. He also brought for exhibition a beautiful series of the eggs of Brünnich's Guillemot.

An interesting discussion ensued on Mr. Pearson's paper, in which Admiral Markham, Mr. Howard Saunders, Mr. Selater, and others took part.

XI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. *Andersen on Diomedea melanophrys in the Færoes.*

[*Diomedea melanophrys*, boende paa Færøerne. Af Knud Andersen. Vidensk. Medd. naturh. Kjøbenhavn, 1894, pp. 241-264, pl. v.

Diomedea melanophrys in the Færøe Islands. By Knud Andersen. Communicated by W. Eagle Clarke, as requested. Proc. Royal Phys. Soc. of Edinburgh, vol. xiii. pp. 91-114, pls. ii. & iii. 1895.]

In these papers full details are given respecting the Albatross which was shot on Myggenæs Holm, after consorting with the Gannets there for more than 30 years. Mr. Harvie-Brown has already given some account of this bird, and of another individual of the same species killed in 80° N. lat. (Zool. 1894, p. 337).